

TITLE: DSHS STAFF FORUM QUESTIONS

PREPARED: CSD\ESA

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The following questions are used to facilitate WorkFirst Staff Forum meetings with staff statewide:

1. When we are assessing families' participation requirements do we look at the entire household?
2. Do current participation requirements allow flexibility?
3. How do you feel about the difference between poverty and employment?
4. How do we start to help parents experience success, so they can believe in themselves?
5. Are educational opportunities available to help parents to move off of TANF?
 - a. Are we seeing educational opportunities that offer true employment potential?
6. When we talk about being family centered and focusing on early childhood, what are we doing, what are we not doing and what could we be doing?
 - a. How do we better support the health, education and generational status of families on TANF?
7. Do parents taking the Infant Exemption have opportunities to build relationships?
8. What are some of the challenges that you see around the current workload and how does that impact case management?
9. Do you think that we are using Community Jobs to its fullest potential?
 - a. Are we being creative enough about what CJ can really be?
10. Child only cases:
 - a. How do we better support the children who are no longer in the household with their parents?
 - b. What would you like to see change with child only caseloads?
 - c. Do we connect with these families?
 - d. What can we do here?
11. Time Limits:
 - a. Are there things that we can do while we are delaying the 60 month rule?
 - b. What would you like to see happen with the 60 month rule? Are you satisfied with the current process or would you like to see changes?
12. SDR – how will it impact case management in the future?
 - a. What are your thoughts on how we can apply SDR principles to case management?
13. How is Morale, how are we doing and what we do to improve it?
14. What are the desired program outcomes? How would we measure them?
15. What WorkFirst activities are core functions of the program?
16. Who should engage in job search as a work activity?
17. Do we need to adjust our education and training policy framework to help people not only gain employment but have the opportunity to experience wage progression?
18. How can we meet federal work rates and requirements while having a program that realizes greater outcomes for our participants?
19. How should the redesign address deferrals and exemptions from participation?
20. How can we better engage two-parent families?
21. Do federal regulations and requirements provide more flexibility than what is currently allowed in our WorkFirst program?
 - a. Are we being as creative as possible in meeting federal work participation requirements, in ways that align with our core assumptions?
22. Can some core functions be provided more efficiently and effectively by others?
23. Can we provide some or all of the core functions through performance-based contracts?
24. How can we provide funding based on performance incentives or outcomes?